

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-12 and 29-31 are allowed. Claims 13-28 stand rejected, but indication of allowable subject matter in such claims is noted with appreciation. By this paper, claims 13 and 21 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the statutory subject matter of this invention. Thus, claims 1-31 are presented for examination. For the reasons set forth below, these claims are believed to be in condition to allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Claim Rejections

Claims 13-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

Based on Examiner's suggestions, claims 13 and 21 have been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the statutory subject matter of this invention.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

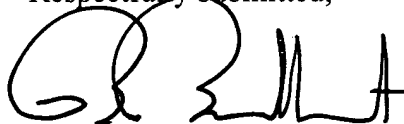
The amendments to claims 13 and 21 above should be entered by the Examiner because the amendments are supported by the as-filed specification and drawings and do not add any new matter to the application. Further, the amendments do not raise new issues or require a further search.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-31 are in condition for immediate allowance. In the event the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of any of these claims which could be clarified in a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully urged to initiate the same with the Applicant's undersigned attorney.

DATED this 13th day of October, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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